

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4457

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TAGS AND SUBJECT

E..O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, CZ

SUBJECT: PALME'S CRITICISM OF "BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM" IN
EASTERN EUROPE

1. SUMMARY. SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME HAS EXPLOITED
THE RECENT DUBCEK LETTER TO REITERATE KNOWN SWEDISH
DISPLEASURE WITH THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA SINCE
1968. HE ALSO SPOKE DISPARAGINGLY OF THE
"BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM" IN EASTERN EUROPE GENERALLY, BUT
TEXT OF HIS REMARKS IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. END SUMMARY
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2. PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME INCLUDED CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DUBCEK, AND THE "BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM" IN EASTERN EUROPE IN A SPEECH APRIL 13 BEFORE A LOCAL AUDIENCE IN THE PROVINCIAL CITY OF LINKOPING (L"LIN-SHOPPING"). FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST, MOTTEST IS AVAILABLE AND STOCKHOLM PRESS COVERAGE HAS THUS FAR BEEN LIMITED TO A BRIEF ARTICLE IN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AFTONBLADET APRIL 14.

3. PALME'S FORUM WAS A CEREMONY HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "LINKOPING LABOR COMMUNE," DESCRIBED BY PALME AS "A UNIQUE SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM." ACCORDING TO AFTON BLADET: "OLOF PALME CRITICIZED THE "BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM' IN EASTERN EUROPE IN A SPEECH ON SUNDAY. AS A FRIGHTENING EXAMPLE, THE PRIME MINISTER CITED THE FATE OF ALEXANDER DUBCEK, WHOSE SMUGGLED LETTER WAS PUBLICIZED IN DAGENS NYHETER APRIL 13. DUBCEK HAD THE AMBITION TO INTRODUCE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT WHAT HAPPENED? HE NOW WORKS AS A MECHANIC IN SOUTH CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SURROUNDED BY SIX SECURITY AGENTS. HE, NEVER THELESS, HAS THE COURAGE TO SHARPLY CONDEM IN HIS LETTER THE RULING COMUNIST SYSTEM, SAID PALME."

4. PRESS APRIL 17 CARRIES AGENCY REPORT THAT CZECH CP LEADER GUSTAV HUSAK IN SPEECH APRIL 16 MADE FOLLOWING REFERENCE TO PALME: "SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, RECENTLY SAID DUBCEK IS UNDER DAY AND NIGHT SURVEILLANCE BY THE SECRET POLICE. WE INVITE MR. PALME TO TAKE CHARGE OF DUBCEK. HE IS FREE TO TRAVEL TO SWEDEN TOMORROW AS AN EXPERT ON DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SWEDISH PEOPLE, WHOM I HIGHLY RESPECT, WILL SAY A FEW MONTHS FROM NOW WHENHE HAS DESTROYED (SIC) THE SWEDISH KINGDOM."

5. COMMENT: THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA SINCE 1968 IS AMONGTHOSE WHICH THE SWEDISH LEADERSHIP FINDS IT APPROPRIATE TO DEPLORE FROM TIME TO TIME. STRAUZS-HUPE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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